

~~2~~ ¹ 2. A friction material according to Claim ~~1~~¹, wherein the average length of the fibres is at most 120 mm.

~~3~~ ² 3. A friction material according to Claim ~~2~~², wherein the fibres are chosen from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid.

~~4~~ ³ 4. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim ~~3~~³ further including fillers in powder form incorporated into the mat.

~~5~~ ⁴ 5. A friction material according to Claim ~~4~~⁴, wherein said fillers in powder form are selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

~~6~~ ⁴ 6. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim ~~5~~⁴ further including fillers in the form of pulps incorporated into the mat.

~~7~~ ⁶ 7. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim ~~6~~⁶, wherein said fillers in pulp form are selected from the group consisting of the pulps of glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

~~9~~ ¹ 9. A friction material according to Claim ~~1~~¹, wherein the thermosetting resin is resol-based.

~~10~~ ¹ 10. A friction material according to Claim ~~1~~¹, wherein latex is added to the thermosetting resin.

~~11~~ ¹ 11. (Four Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim ~~1~~¹ further including fillers in powder form incorporated into the thermosetting resin, wherein said fillers in powder form are selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

25. (Amended) A friction material according to Claim ⁵ further including fillers in the form of pulps incorporated into the mat.

28. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim ¹, wherein the thermosetting resin includes a polar solvent, the polar solvent being an aqueous polar solvent.

33. A friction material for a device employing friction in a liquid medium, the friction material comprising a mat of non-woven fibres impregnated with a thermosetting resin, wherein the friction material comprises by weight
approximately 20% to 40% fibres selected from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid; and
approximately 40% to 60% thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of water-based resins, resol-based resins, phenolic plastic resins, aminoaldehyde resins, epoxy resins and polyimide resins.

34. The friction material according to Claim ¹³ wherein the fibres have an average length of between approximately 12 mm and 120 mm.

35. The friction material according to Claim ¹³ that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

36. The friction material according to Claim ¹³ that is by weight approximately 30% cotton fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

37. (Amended) The friction material according to Claim ¹³ further including fillers selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber, diatoms, glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

38. The friction material according to Claim ¹⁷ that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres,

10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% carbon, 10% coke, and 40% resol-based resin.

Adopted
1939
17
(Amended) The friction material according to Claim 37 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% copper, 10% rockwool, and 40% resol-based resin.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20, 22-25, and 27-39 are pending.

Claims 12-18, 20, 22-24, 27, and 29-32 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 25, 28, and 33-39 are rejected.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 25, 28, and 37 are amended herein.

Claims 1 and 33 are independent claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the claims detailing the changes made by the amendment. The attached pages are captioned "CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Preliminary Matter

Claim 28 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the term 'polar solvent'. The polar solvent had been introduced in claim 1, however, that limitation was deleted in the Amendment and Response of July 30, 2001. This amendment thus moves the substance that was deleted from claim 1 to claim 28 to introduce a polar solvent in claim 28 and thereby provide proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112(b)

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 25, 28, and 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.